Northern Rockies Outdoor Leadership Undergraduate Certificate

This undergraduate certificate program will teach leadership skills through experiential learning in Montana's outdoor and wilderness settings. Through collaboration with the Parks, Tourism, and Recreation Management program, the Department of Health and Human Performance, Campus Recreation, and the Wilderness Institute, this multidisciplinary certificate program will utilize the diverse strengths across campus to create future leaders while showcasing the vibrant setting in which the University of Montana calls home.

The proposed certificate would be housed within the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation and would involve courses across campus. The certificate requires 15 credit hours with choices of courses that already exist on campus. The first group of courses will include a leadership theory courses, an outdoor recreation activity courses, and certification courses related to outdoor leadership. The second group of courses will focus on field courses that involve application of the leadership theory and training. Lastly, students will be required to complete an internship to gain professional experience and further enhance their leadership skills.

The certificate will be marketed to students of all majors and potentially to professionals in the region who want to strengthen their leadership skills. We believe this certificate addresses a need on campus to enhance leadership skills while also showcasing and utilizing the outdoor resources in our backyard. Through the Northern Rockies Outdoor Leadership Certificate, the University of Montana can further their reputation for promoting future leaders and attract students to the unique and vibrant natural resources that can serve as a backdrop for learning leadership skills.

Objectives:
- Learn leadership skills inside the classroom and use Montana and Missoula’s outdoor resources as a classroom for students to learn leadership skills.
- Strengthen leadership skills through field courses and capstone experiences around the region and world.
- Support leadership initiatives and skills for UM students and professionals in region.
- Strengthen UM’s reputation for leadership development while also highlighting the unique landscape that can draw students to region.
- Highlight and promote outdoor recreation in the state of Montana and its connection to public policy.

Desired Outcomes:
- Strengthen the skills and competency of students to be leaders in their field.
- Enhance the skillset for students to be successful in careers.
- Contribute to the positive reputation of UM as a university that promotes leadership.
- Showcase UM as a valuable location to learn leadership skills in a vibrant and unique natural setting.
- Create an opportunity for professionals to enhance their leadership skills.
- Create a self-sustaining program that can generate revenue and support further growth.
III. ENDORSEMENTS AND APPROVALS

Requestor: Jennifer Thomsen  
Signature: Jennifer Thomsen  
Date: 9/8/2017

Phone/ Email: 406.243.5581

Program Chair: Jill Belsky  
Signature: Jill Belsky  
Date: 9/9/2017

Other Affected Programs:  
John Quinney  
Signature: John Quinney  
Date: 9/13/2017

Scott Richter, Health and Human Performance  
Signature:  
Date:  

Natalie Dawson, Wilderness Institute  
Signature:  
Date:  

Steve Thompson, Campus Recreation  
Signature:  
Date:  

Dean: Tom DeLuca  
Signature:  
Date:  

Graduate School Dean (If Graduate Level)  
Signature: N/A  
Date: 

Library Dean (Required for #11 below only)  
Signature: N/A  
Date: 

☐ Resources included in the proposal are sufficient to adequately support the new program’s library needs.

Provost: Beverly Edmond  
Signature:  
Date:  

IV. TYPE OF PROPOSAL

Any additional required forms are listed after each type of proposal and must accompany this form. Proposals for a new degree or center require notification in advance of this proposal. See the Office of the Provost’s curriculum website for information and instructions.

Level I Proposals:

☐ 1a. Placing a program into moratorium (Program Termination Form)
☐ 1b. Withdrawing a program from moratorium
☐ 2. Adding, retitling, terminating or revising a campus certificate of 29 credits or fewer
☐ 3. Adding a BAS/AA/AS Area of Study
☐ 4. Offering an existing program via distance or online delivery
☐ 5. Retitling an existing postsecondary educational program
☐ 6. Terminating an existing postsecondary educational program (Program Termination Form)
☐ 7. Consolidating existing postsecondary educational programs (BOR Curriculum Proposal Form)
☐ 8. Adding a new minor where there is a major or concentration (option) in a major (BOR Curriculum Proposal Form)
☐ 9. Revising a program substantially (e.g. changing program focus) (BOR Curriculum Proposal Form)
☐ 10. Adding a temporary Certificate or AAS Degree Program Approval limited to 2 years

Level II Proposals:

☐ 11. Establishing a new postsecondary educational program (Curriculum Proposal and Reviewed Intent to Plan Form)
12. Exceeding the 120 credit maximum for baccalaureate degrees Exception to policy 301.11
13. Forming a college, division, school, department, institute, bureau, center, station, laboratory or similar unit [Curriculum Proposal or Center/Institute Proposal and Approved Intent to Plan Form]
14. Eliminating or consolidating an academic, administrative, or research unit.
15. Retitling an academic, administrative, or research unit.

V. CIP CODE (CLASSIFICATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS)

The BOR requires a CIP Code (Classification of Instructional Programs) for tracking and reporting of degrees. Use the CIP Code website to identify the most applicable code.

CIP Code: 31.0101

VI. METHOD OF DELIVERY

Will more than 50% of the proposed program be delivered via online or distance methods?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Provide a brief description of the method of instructional delivery (i.e. percentage of face-to-face, hybrid, distance/online education).

100% face-to-face delivery in classroom or field experiences.

VII. CATALOG LANGUAGE

Attach the current or proposed catalog language with any changes clearly identified.

VIII. JUSTIFICATION

The outdoors provides a unique venue to learn and apply leadership skills through navigating challenging situations. Some examples of skills include improved group dynamics and management, conflict resolution, collaborative skills, and critical thinking under pressure. Several studies have demonstrated the transfer of leadership skills learned in outdoor settings to professional, academic, and personal settings (Cooley, Cumming, & Burns, 2015; Sibthorp, 2003; Sullivan, 2003; Williams, Graham, & Baker, 2003). The learning that takes place in the outdoor setting can be attributed to the unique structure and setting of the course (Paisley, Furman, Sibthorp, & Gookin, 2008).

We believe the Northern Rockies Outdoor Leadership Certificate addresses a need among our students for leadership skills in an outdoor setting. In a brief survey to approximately fifty undergraduate students from the College of Forestry and Conservation, the Department Health and Human Performance, and the Wilderness and Civilization program. 92% indicated some interest in the certificate program and 65% expressed that they are very interested in the certificate program. When students were asked to what extent there is a need for a certificate focused on leadership training, 67% indicated that is very much a need for the program. In addition, 93% of students recognized that leadership skills are critical for success in their future careers. Additional comments from students about the certificate program suggest they are “looking for any opportunity to add to my resume. I think a certificate program would be very beneficial.” Students claimed that they “would take advantage of it [certificate program]” and that this “would be a great benefit to the future graduates in the real world.”
IX. SUBMISSION

1. Submit a hard copy of this form with all required signatures to the Office of the Provost.

2. Submit an electronic copy of this Word document, along with all other required BOR forms (in Word) to jasminezink.laine@mso.umt.edu

- After approval by the Provost, the proposal will be submitted to the Faculty Senate Office.
- After approval by the appropriate Curriculum Committee (ASCRC or Graduate Council), the full Faculty Senate must approve the proposal.
- Upon Faculty Senate approval, the Office of the Provost will submit the proposal to OCHE for the next possible OCHE/BOR meeting.
  - Note that BOR and internal UM deadlines require submission quite in advance of the BOR meeting.
- The Office of the Provost will notify the proposer once the change has been approved by OCHE/BOR.